



KENTUCKY STATE COUNCIL MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

ANDY BESHEAR
Governor

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STEVEN P. BULLARD
Commissioner

TO: Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3)

FROM: Brigadier General Steven P. Bullard, USAF Retired
Commissioner, Kentucky State Council

DATE: June 30, 2023 (covers period July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023)

SUBJECT: 2023 Annual Report on Kentucky MIC3 State Council (<https://mic3.net/state/kentucky/>)

PURPOSE: To provide an annual report summarizing the Commonwealth of Kentucky's State Council activities, to include membership and key points of contact

State Council Roster

- Brig Gen (USAF Ret.) Steven P. Bullard, State Council Commissioner
- Commissioner Jason E. Glass, Kentucky Department of Education
- Colonel Lance O'Bryan, USA, Garrison Commander, Fort Knox, Kentucky
- Senator Mike Wilson, Kentucky General Assembly
- Representative Myron Dossett, Kentucky General Assembly
- Mr. Chris Bentzel, Superintendent, Christian County Public Schools
- Ms. Teresa Morgan, Superintendent, Hardin County Schools
- Mr. Brian Perry, Director of Government Relations, Kentucky Department of Education

State Council Point of Contact

STEVEN P. BULLARD, Brigadier General USAF/ANG Retired
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Commissioner- Kentucky)
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Primary School Liaison Officers

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Activities of the State Council

MIC3 Annual Conference (October 19-20, 2022)

Kentucky State Council Commissioner Bullard attended the 2022 Annual Business Meeting (ABM) held in October in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This was the first MIC3 ABM to be held in person since October 2019 due to COVID restrictions. Key topics addressed at the ABM included a resolution of the National Guard and Reserve inclusion proposal. Commissioners voted not to attempt to open the base MIC3 legislative due to the associated complexities; however, they endorsed the concept of states adopting their own state-specific legislation to do so, similar to existing legislation covering Guard and Reserve personnel in Arkansas and a similar best-practice legislation (KRS 156.735) in Kentucky providing compact protection to DOD civilian employees and their families. MIC3 has developed a legislative tool kit for interested states. Kentucky already has draft legislation in place – House Bill 63 in the 2023 General Assembly, which passed the House and passed through Senate committee but did not get a vote on the floor of the Senate due to time constraints. The legislation will be filed again in the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly. MIC3 staff will also assist states in crafting a citation correction to the compact, in which the base federal law was inadvertently cited as a section instead of chapter. This correction was included in House Bill 63.

State Council Annual Meeting (January 24, 2023; virtual)

The State Council conducted its annual meeting on January 24, 2023 through Zoom video teleconference. In Kentucky, per direction of the governor, the KCMA executive director serves as the state commissioner for this national program, with a Kentucky Department of Education representative. Brian Perry succeeded Tracy Goff-Herman in the KDE role after Goff-Herman left state government service late summer 2022. Those present included Commissioner Bullard, Military MIC3 Representative Colonel Lance O'Bryan (Fort Knox Garrison Commander), Hardin County Schools Superintendent Teresa Morgan, Tracy Leath representing Christian County Public Schools Superintendent Chris Bentzel, State Senator Mike Wilson, Fort Knox School

Liaison Officer Brenda Weatherington, and Stacey Shane (KCMA). David Wickersham of the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning planned to attend representing Commissioner of Education Jason Glass; however, before the meeting began he was pulled away for a federal government call and was unable to join. Mr. Perry and Rep. Dossett were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Commissioner Bullard said that MIC3, which ensures smooth transfer to new school districts, is very effective here in Kentucky. We have a great partnership with Kentucky Department of Education and our DODEA school liaisons at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell. All elements continue to go well, he briefed. Our MIC3 State Council membership is full, and cases are at a minimum, with one case reaching the state level thus far this current fiscal year.

National MIC3 Executive Director Cherise Imai praised the MIC3 team's outstanding relationship with the Kentucky council and school liaison officers. She also outlined the implementation of the new 3-year MIC3 strategic plan, focusing on education, outreach and training. Commissioners adopted a new rule for extra-curricular activities that originated from an Elizabethtown, Kentucky case from February 2022 in which a military student was unable to make his high school baseball team. The new rule clarifies the intent associated with the availability of tryout information to help ensure all new students receive important information on extra-curricular activities available to them. MIC3 has produced several new training videos and continues to do monthly on-line training, with the potential for in-person training – an excellent option for nearby states, especially Kentucky, which hosts the MIC3 staff with the Council of State Governments in Lexington.

State Training Activities

MIC3 national staff conducted in-person training with Elizabethtown Independent Schools staff in early January 2023, joined by Fort Knox School Liaison Officer Brenda Weatherington. Commissioner Bullard had a conflict that day, so he filmed an introduction for the event with the assistance of Lindsay Dablow of the national MIC3 team. The filmed introduction is not time-sensitive and may be reused as needed. In addition, Fort Campbell School Liaison Officer Laquvia Garrett did an outstanding job hosting multiple training events in the counties around her installation through the first quarter of 2023, and also assisted in hosting local area Kentucky Purple Star induction ceremonies as a guest speaker.

Additional Duties

Commissioner Bullard continues to serve as national Compliance Committee chair, which also places him on the national MIC3 Executive Committee. He was appointed to this role in January 2022. The Compliance Committee meets bi-monthly and the Executive Committee meets quarterly.

Supporting Legislation

As noted earlier in this report, the Kentucky MIC3 Council worked with council member Rep. Myron Dossett to file omnibus military legislation in the form of House Bill 63, which includes the MIC3 Compact Statute Correction for KRS 156.730 and the addition of the National Guard and Reserve to the protections of KRS 156.735. House Bill 63 passed the House unanimously in late February 2023, with a sponsor change to freshman Representative Steve Bratcher, then languished for nearly a month in Senate committee as legislative action stalled in general due to the highly charged general politics of the session. House Bill 63 passed Senate committee the second to last week of the session in March; however, time ran out on the session before it could be heard on the floor the final day. We will bring this legislation back for consideration in the 2024 General Assembly, which is a longer session and is expected to pass easily. The General Assembly did pass two Defense State Liaison Office priority occupational licensing compact bills, one entering Kentucky into the new Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (House Bill 319) and the other entering Kentucky into the

new Cosmetology compact (Senate Bill 57). Kentucky is a leader in occupational compacts and is a member of eight of the 13 current DOD priority compacts (five being new this year). We were hoping to add the Emergency Medical Services Compact this year; however, the national compact is conducting a legal review on state concerns, so we elected to postpone consideration until the 2024 session. The remaining DOD-priority compacts pending potential sponsorship entering the 2024 session are the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Compact (this one's been a challenge, as well, with employer concerns about APRNs seeking higher paying contracts elsewhere), the Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact, the Interstate Massage Therapy Compact and the Physician Associates Compact. The 2024 session will also see legislation to incorporate the Kentucky Purple Star Schools program.

Month of the Military Child

In 2021, a major highlight of our year was the completion of two videos and a Governor's proclamation honoring April's Month of the Military Child. The Governor and First Lady teamed up to film a follow-on video on their social media for 2022. At our invitation, First Lady Britainy Beshear visited Fort Knox DODEA schools on April 21, 2023 to promote the Month of the Military Child, meet installation leaders, and promote military family readiness.

Annual State Dues Assessment

Kentucky received its Fiscal Year 2024 dues assessment for membership in the MIC3 on May 1, 2023, in the amount of \$10,355, invoice number FY24-001KY, and submitted it for payment, per Governor-directed memo, to the Kentucky Department of Military Affairs. The current dues formula for FY24 is outlined in the Compact Rules, Chapter 200, Sec. 2.103 (<http://www.mic3.net/assets/rules-book-edits-20190905.pdf>). Payments are due by September 30, 2023. Payment in full was immediately processed by the Department of Military Affairs and was received by MIC3 on May 11, 2023.

Administrative Requirements

Commissioner Bullard completed and submitted to MIC3 his mandatory Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest statements at the MIC3 Annual Business Meeting in October 2022. All Kentucky administrative requirements for the fiscal year are complete with the filing of this year's Annual Report on June 30, 2023.

FY23 Kentucky MIC3 Cases (one)

- Army family assigned to Fort Knox; successfully resolved
 - Bullitt County Schools informed the soldier his children cannot attend school next year unless he gets a Kentucky driver's license
 - This is in violation of KRS 186.430, with this exemption adopted into Kentucky law during the 2021 Kentucky General Assembly (House Bill 277)
 - Military personnel assigned to Kentucky are allowed to maintain their official home of record outside Kentucky, as many soldiers do (including this soldier), and may retain a valid driver's license from that state versus obtaining a Kentucky license
 - The school official was simply unaware of this legislation, understandable as it was recently passed, and promptly complied with its intent
 - No further issues are anticipated

Military Student Identifier Update

As part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirements, the U.S. Department of Education requires school districts to identify students who are armed forces family members. This information is a voluntary submission by parents and guardians. Kentucky's Student Information System (KSIS) includes a "Military Connections" tab to track guardian data for those who are active duty military personnel. A student is considered military connected if a parent or guardian is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty. KDE continues to promote the importance of this data collection to public schools and districts.

Information related to the collection of this data can be found at Kentucky Department of Education's website, KSIS Data Standard – Census (Section G: Military Connections) Sample Data Collection Form for Local Districts and Schools.

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